

**BEFORE THE COMMISSION OF FIVE JUDGES  
APPOINTED BY  
THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO**

In re Judicial Campaign Complaint  
Against Lee Hildebrandt, Jr.

Case No. 96-2495

**ORDER**

This matter came before the commission of five judges appointed by the Supreme Court of Ohio pursuant to Gov. Jud. R. II, Section 5(E)(1) and R.C. 2701.11 following the Supreme Court's dismissal of the respondent's appeal by order of May 21, 1997. The commission met by telephone conference on June 2, 1997. Upon further consideration of this matter, the commission hereby orders that the respondent be suspended from judicial office without pay for a period of six months, effective June 17, 1997. The entire term of the suspension is stayed, and the respondent is placed on probation for a period of six months subject to the respondent's compliance with all of the following:

1. On or before June 17, 1997, the respondent shall pay a fine of \$15,000 and costs of these proceedings, as outlined in the statements of necessary expenses filed by the secretary of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline on November 7 and November 15, 1996 and by the secretary of this commission on April 9, 1997. The fine and costs shall be made payable to the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Ohio by certified check or money order.

2. On or before June 17, 1997, the respondent shall pay complainant's attorney fees and expenses in the amounts set forth in this commission's order of January 27, 1997. Payment of these attorney fees and expenses shall be made directly to the complainant or his designated representative.
3. On February 5, 1997, counsel for the respondent submitted a draft public statement of the respondent for review and approval as required by the commission's order of January 27, 1997. In view of the stay issued by the Supreme Court on February 6, 1997, this statement was not reviewed by the commission at that time. Having now reviewed the draft statement, we conclude that it attempts to justify conduct that has been found improper under the Code of Judicial Conduct by a hearing panel of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline and by this commission and, accordingly, is wholly inappropriate as a discerning letter of public apology. The commission has prepared a revised statement, which is attached to this order. The commission orders that the public statement be distributed by the respondent to the complainant and all radio stations, television stations, and newspapers of general circulation within Hamilton County prior to June 17, 1997.
4. The respondent shall certify his compliance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of this order to the secretary of this commission.

This order is subject to the continuing jurisdiction of the commission and may be modified by future orders.

**So ordered.**

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Judge David A. Ellwood, Chairman

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Judge James D. Sweeney

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Judge R. Scott Krichbaum

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Judge Charles E. Henry

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Judge John R. Adkins